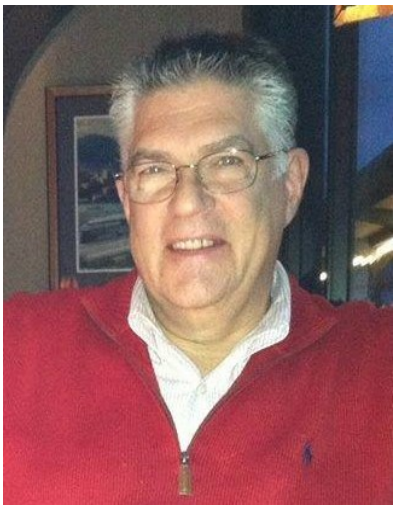
MMR_0444 Lofland, Joseph



Joe was awarded his MMR at the MER Princeton Junction Convention in 2010. Although now living in Western Pennsylvania, Joe is well known as an active modeler in our Philadelphia Division for many years. Congratulations Joe!

Joe wrote the following:

Many years ago, I decided to start the journey to acquire my MMR certificate not knowing what I would find along the way. Well, it has been a very interesting and worthwhile trip.

My first AP certificates came easily, because I already had started building a large layout. When you do that several things really fall in place. Now one doesn't have to have a large layout, but it certainly makes things easier. Developing or building the layout for operation certainly helps as does doing scenery.

So you have to really move pass the plywood stage. When I first got into the hobby, I met/found Charlie Carangi who became my mentor. This friendship has lasted for many, many years. Charlie always has been ahead of the curve.

He also has inspired and instilled in me many attritributes. Looking at slides to adhere to the prototype, historical knowledge and research. Working to a high (er) standard. So I really want to thank and acknowledge him for helping me to grow to this point in our hobby.

Now this journey hasn't been easy. I've had to grow and learn. I've had to do things over. Gee, I've even complained about judges and their judging. Imagine that. So now that I can and will be a judge I can tell you that I will have a different perspective than I use to have.

One of the challenges I had was the paperwork and documentation. I would have much rather just built things and not had to do write ups. Taking pictures during the process…what a pain. The last certificate I did was for structures. Now here was my challenge. I had done cars, and scenery, and author, and all the other AP certificates, but for some reason there was a wall in front of me and I had to struggle to get over it.

I entered one structure three times and it still didn't get the 87-½ points needed (that became my motto " Just give me 87 ½ points, I don't care about anything else"). But do you know that this is the one that now means the most to me, where I grew the most, and most proud of. It made me feel like I now can accomplish anything.

All you have to do is set a course, stick to it and don't give up and you'll accomplish you goals. Now how many times have we heard that through out our lives? Is it worth it to work on AP certificates? And do Paperwork? And do things over? And look at your work and find it not acceptable? Have people be critical of you work? Well, yes, but it has been a most enjoyable and worthwhile journey.

Joseph Lofland

PLEASE READ NEXT PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OBIT

Joseph Lofland, 65, owner of JJL Models, passed away on Saturday, March 15, 2014, after having a brain embolism at home. He enjoyed model trains, playing trombone, working at Home Depot, and gardening. His career as a band director spanned 32 years, all in Delaware, in all levels all the way up to high school. He had an award winning marching band, of which he was very proud, as were the kids.